

Testimony of Joseph LaChance regarding RB #1085 “An act concerning the legalization of the retail sale and possession of cannabis and concerning the erasure of criminal records in the case of convictions based on the possession of a small amount of cannabis”

Co-chairs and esteemed members of the Judiciary committee:

My name is Joseph LaChance, Treasurer of Connecticut NORML and Director of Education for Canna Health LLC. I am a lifelong Connecticut resident, and a CT Medical Marijuana patient. I am delivering this testimony today in support of HB #1085 (with changes), An act concerning the legalization of the retail sale and possession of cannabis and concerning the erasure of criminal records in the case of convictions based on the possession of a small amount of cannabis”

Regarding RB #1085:

Possession limits: Must be clarified between public possession (i.e. in automobile, on person) and in- home possession (in a secure location). Residents should be allowed to store an additional amount of cannabis at home above and beyond purchase limits. This is the norm in most other legalized states. Also, does this mean that Medical Marijuana patients can have four ounces total (2.5 medical + 1.5 recreational)? This needs to be clarified. Decriminalization limits must be raised as well, to match the new possession limits (except for under 21)

Expungement of misdemeanors: Sec. 17 (a)&(b) - Does not go far enough. It must be amended to include all cannabis infractions including sales, cultivation and non-violent felonies. These are the people most affected by the “War on Drugs” and they must be treated equally if not given priority to misdemeanor possession offenses. The process for automatic misdemeanor expungement must be studied. If San Francisco can expunge 9,000 records with an algorithm, then CT can do the same.

Those are my suggestions for RB #1085. Thank you for listening and acting on feedback from your constituents. I hope you will do the right thing and create a truly fair and equitable regulatory structure for the CT Cannabis industry.

Joe LaChance